Governor Is Reported Paralyzed

Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace was undergoing exploratory surgery at Holy Cross Hospital in Montgomery County last night amid reports that he is paralyzed from the waist down. Doctors were seeking to determine the extent of his gunshot wounds and any internal bleeding.

A doctor who works on the hospital staff said Wallace was paralyzed when he was taken into surgery. "He was not able to move at all the moment he entered the operating room," the doctor said. "He was paraplegic when he went in."

Another doctor inside the Silver Spring hospital but not in the operating room said Wallace "felt no sensation from the waist down."

Thomas Burke, a hospital spokesman, said shortly after 6 p.m. that Wallace's condition is "stable in that there is no immediate danger of his expiring."

See **HOSPITAL, A12, Col. 1**

Wallace, in Hospital, Reportedly Paralyzed

HOSPITAL, From A1

"But," added Burke, "he's certainly not out of danger. That's why we're operating." the hospital's surgery rooms

At 7:55 p.m., Billy Joe Camp, Wallace's press secretary, said that all vital signs remain strong. He said doctors told him the governor's blood pressure was excellent.

Doctors say they have controlled internal bleeding, their first priority. They have determined there was no liver damage.

Wallace was wheeled into at 5:50 p.m. from the emergency room, where officials said he had been awake and speaking with his wife. Wallace was shot about 4 p.m.

Hospital administrator Sister Helen Marie said a team of four surgeons and a specialist in internal medicine began exploratory surgery shortly after 6 p.m.

Ninety minutes later he was still in surgery.

One of President Nixon's personal physicians, Dr. William Laukash, was also expected to join the surgical team. Officials said the President dispatched Dr. Laukash to the hospital immediately.

Hospital officials said at 6 p.m. they were still uncertain exactly how many times Wallace had been shot.

Burke quoted one of the physicians, Dr. Joseph Peabody, a chest and vascular surgeon, as saying shortly before the surgery began that "this is exploratory surgery because of the spinal involvement. There's some indication of internal bleeding, probably from an abdominal wound, which is the most serious."

Wallace received at least one pint of blood while in the emergency room. The primary aim of the exploratory surgery, said Burke, was to determine the location and extent of the internal bleeding.

The team of doctorsall worked on the stricken governor from the time he was wheeled into the emergency room at 4:30 p.m. until the surgery began.

Sister Marie identified the doctors as Dr. Joseph Schanno, a vascular surgeon; Dr. Peabody; Dr. John Haberlin, a general surgeon Dr. Baltazar Perez, not a surgeon but a specialist in internal medicine.

At 7:30 p.m., Gov. Wallace's condition was considered "critical but stable." Burke said there were "several gunshot wounds in the shoulder and abdomen."

The U.S. Justice Department said Wallace's assailant used a .38-caliber snubnose revolver.

Gov. Wallace was awake and speaking from the time he was taken to the hospital until he was taken into surgery.

The surgery itself, which took place in the hospital's "Code Blue" room (the best surigcally equipped room in the hospital) was delayed an estimated 25 minutes to await a neurosurgeon.

According to Laurel Rescue Squad and hospital officials, a secret service agent, Nick Zarvos, was also shot and an Alabama State Trooper, Gov. Wallace's bodyguard, was shot in the abdomen.

Officials also said a Wallace campaign volunteer, Dora Thompson of 5106 59th Ave., Rogers Heights, Md., was shot once in the leg. No further details were immediately available.

Zarvos underwent surgery at Leland Memorial Hospital in Riverdale at 7:45 p.m. Officials listed his condition as "satisfactory and stable" and that he was shot in the right side of the neck. The bullet lodged in his jaw.

The trooper was identified as Capt. E. C. Dothard of Montgomery, Ala., the governor's chief bodyguard. Maryland State Police Superintendent Thomas S. Smith said Dothard was "not in too bad shape."

Emmett W. Eaton, executive director of the Alabama Commission on Aging and a Wallace "troubleshooter," rode with the governor to the hospital.

He said Wallace bled all the way from the Laurel Shopping Center in Prince George's County, to Holy Cross.

"All the wounds were on the right side," said Eaton. It looked like four holes but they aren't sure." Eaton said Wallace asked him "how low down is the bullet."

In an interview with The Washington Post, Dr. Bryan Warren, a physician who attended Wallace at the scene, the Laurel Shopping Center, said: "He was lying on his back, perfectly conscious and lucid, calm . . . His jacket was open. I pulled his shirt up and there was a gunshot wound in his lower right chest. It looked like it might have been a .32 or a .38 (caliber bullet). I knew it had to hit the lower part of the lung and liver. Not knowing which direction it went, that was all I knew."

"There was no external bleeding at the time," said Dr. Warren. "His pulse was good. He was perfectly conscious, rational and perfectly calm. I knew there was internal hemorrhaging. The best thing to do was to get him to an emergency room. We got him into a station wagon. He (Wallace) said 'I'm having trouble breathing . . .' I could feel no pulse then . . . I was right worried then . . ."

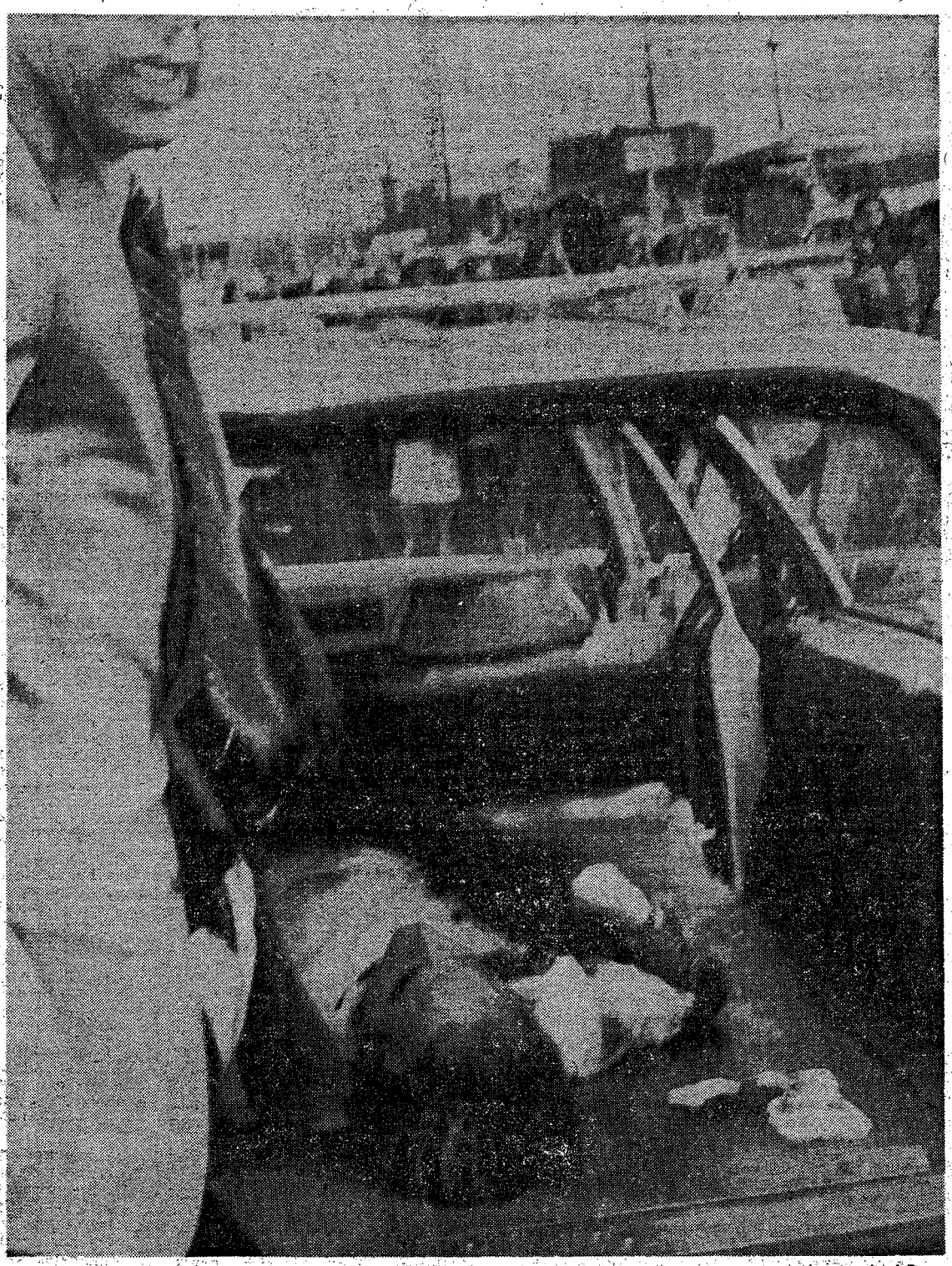
The Laurel rescue squad

received a call from the Secret Service at 4:01 p.m., asking for several ambulances to respond to the shopping center immediately, according to Squad Sgt. Dennis Lunsford.

Lunsford, said four ambulances were dispatched, two of which were used.

Lunsford said the Secret Service did not describe the nature of the emergency. He said that when the first ambulance arrived at the shopping center at 4:04 p.m. Wallace was being administered first aid by a doctor, identified as Dr. Warren, 76, of Laurel, who had attended the rally as a spectator.

This story was written by Washington Post Staff Writer Jon Katz and was based on reports filed by staff writers Henry Allen, Stuart Auerbach, Donald Baker, Carl Bernstein, LaBarabara Bowman, Noel Epstein, Thomas O'Toole, Sally Quinn and Nancy Scannell.



Associated Press

Gov. Wallace rests on deck of station wagon just moments after he was shot yesterday in Laurel.